MERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council is sponsoring a software team to visist Japan next month to tap the Japanese software market at the World Computing Services Industry Congress IX at Yokohama ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether India would be able to tap the Japanese software market which is the second biggest single market of computer software after the United States with an expected world market share of 16.66 per cent amounting to 50 billion U.S. $ by 1995 ; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE COMMERCE MINISTER (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the invitation of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, 8 companies have so far evinced interest to attend and participate in the World Cpmputing Services Industry Congress IX at Pacific Yokohama Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan during June 12—15, 1994.

(c) and (d) The World Congress would provide a platform for the participating Indian Softwarre companies to inter-act with Japanese Software companies. It is hoped tha the participation in the Congress would help in establishing useful contacts for cooperative international relationship and generate business for the participating companies for software exports from India to Japan.

Iron ore procured and exported by the country

7384. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Iron ore procured and being exported by the country during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a major loss in procurement and exports ;

(c) if so, the sectors being badly affected by this loss ; and

(d) what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The total quantity of iron ore exported during the last three years is as under :—

(Qty. Million tonnes)

1991-92	30.02
1992-93	21.95
1993-94 (Apr.—Feb.) (Provisional)	25.39(P)

(Source : DGCIS, Calcutta).

The quantity procured by MMTC for export during the last three years is as under :—

(Qty. Million tonnes)

1991-92	14.00
1992-93	11.06
1993-94	10.81

(b) to (d) The profitability for procurement and export of iron ore has been affected due to reduction in international prices of iron ore and increase in railway freight. The sectors adversely affected are Bihar, Orissa and Bellary-Hospet.